

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

The Office rejected the claims in view of a combination of patents to Kobayashi (U.S. 6,294,313) and Tamura (U.S. 6,475,688). The Office admitted that Kobayashi does not disclose mixtures of the photo-curing resin (a) and the compound (b) in the relative weights required by Claim 1. The Office applied Tamura to show that a mixture of the photo-curing resin (a) and the compound (b) in relative amounts of 100 weight parts of the photo-curing resin composition (a) and 0.01 to 10 weight parts of compound (b) is obvious.

Applicants traverse the combination of Kobayashi and Tamura on the grounds that the Office has provided no motivation or reasonable suggestion for combining the references and has not stated why one may have an expectation of success in arriving at the claimed invention by combining the prior art patents.

Applicants submit that Tamura is non-analogous art with respect to the Kobayashi patent and the claimed invention. Kobayashi is drawn to “Pattern Forming Body, Pattern Forming Method, and Their Applications” (see title) whereas Tamura is drawn to “Electrophotographic Toner, and Image Forming Apparatus and Image Forming Method Using the Same” (see title). There does not appear to be any logical relationship between the toners of Tamura and the photocatalyst-containing layers of Kobayashi. Applicants submit that those of ordinary skill in the art may not turn to Tamura as a teaching relevant to the claimed invention or Kobayashi.

Applicants note that the invention of Claim 1 is drawn to a lens sheet. Transparency is a desirable property in lens sheets. Tamura, on the other hand, is drawn to toner compositions. Applicants submit that those of ordinary skill in the art recognize that toners are not transparent materials and, in fact, are used to provide opaque markings to form images on sheets.

Applicants therefore submit that those of ordinary skill in the art would have no motivation to combine the toner-relevant disclosures of Tamura with the photocatalyst-containing layers of Kobayashi to arrive at the claimed lens sheet or the claimed method of producing a lens sheet.

New dependent Claim 19 limits the method of Claim 6 to one wherein the radiating is carried out in different environments. By carrying out the claimed method in this manner, it is possible to form regions having different free surface energies in a lens sheet. Applicants submit that Kobayashi does not disclose carrying out irradiating in different environments but instead discloses carrying out radiating by blocking certain portions of the layer during radiation.

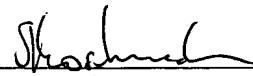
Applicants further draw the Office's attention to new dependent Claims 22 and 23 wherein the lens sheet of original independent Claim 1 must have regions of different surface free energy. In new dependent Claim 22 the difference in the free surface energy between the regions of the lens sheet is at least 20mN/m. Applicants submit that Kobayashi does not disclose or suggest a lens sheet having regions of different surface free energy wherein the difference of surface free energy is 20mN/m or greater.

Applicants direct the Office's attention to new Claims 31 and 32. New dependent Claims 31 and 32 require that compound (b) is present in an amount of at least 3 weight parts per 100 weight parts of the photo-curing resin (a). As stated by the Office on page 3 of the Office Action, Tamura discloses a resin composition containing 0.01 to 1.0 weight parts of a compound. Applicants submit that new dependent Claims 31 and 32 are not obvious in view of the disclosure in Tamura because the text cited by the Office does not disclose the presence of a compound (b) in an amount of 3 weight parts per 100 parts of the photo-curing resin (a).

Applicants submit that the combination of Kobayashi and Tamura is not appropriate and the rejection should therefore be withdrawn. Applicants further submit that new dependent Claims 18-32 and original independent Claims 1 and 6 are patentable over the prior art of record and respectfully request allowance of all now-pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Stefan U. Koschmieder, Ph.D.
Registration No. 50,238

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
SUK:aif